

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEGER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study charter school use of city, parish, and other local public school system-owned facilities and to submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, as of April 22, 2009, Louisiana has sixty-five charter schools operating in eleven parishes throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 17:3982 requires local school boards to make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility slated to be vacant for lease or purchase at fair market value; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, vacant school facilities are made available to charter schools without requiring the charter schools to enter into lease agreements requiring the payment of rent to the city, parish, or other local public school system; and

WHEREAS, city, parish, and other local public school systems are shouldering the burden of costs associated with the school buildings in their systems that are occupied by charter schools without requiring those schools to pay rent or deducting those costs through their Minimum Foundation Program allocation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby urges and requests the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study charter school use of city, parish, and other local public school system-owned facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such study include the following:

(1) An examination of the financial and logistical effects of requiring a city, parish, or other local public school system and a charter school to enter into a lease agreement with

subsequent rental payments, including situations in which a charter is subsequently revoked or a charter school is moved to another building.

(2) An analysis of the practices of other states in relation to charter school use of school system-owned facilities and the financial consequences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education submit a written report of its findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2010 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE